(b) and (c) Plan exists for construction of Road over/under bridges (ROB/RUB). Level Crossings with traffic density of one lakh or more Traffic Vehicle Units (TVUs) (TVU-A unit obtained by multiplying the number of trains with the number of road vehicles passing over the level crossing in 24 hours) are considered for replacement by ROB/RUB on cost sharing basis, or on deposit terms where TVUs are less than 1 lakh. Proposals in both conditions have to be sponsored by State Government duly agreeing to fulfil certain preliminary pre-requisites. In addition, Private Enterpreneurs are also econouraged to build ROB/RUB on Built, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis with their own resources in lieu of which they are offered to use the space underneath commercially or collect toll from traffic passing over the bridge for a specified period. At present, out of 78 LCs, at 28 locations works have been sanctioned and for remaining 50 LCs proposals are awaited from State Government Also, National Highways Authority (NHAI) have undertaken to construct over/under bridges on 4 lane national Highways crossing the Railway alignment at existing level crossing locations or at new bye pass locations.

(d) For works sactioned on cost sharing basis, State Governments have to bear 50% cost of the work on deposit terms, the entire cost of the work is borne by State Government/ NHAI, as applicable.

(e) It is an on-going process, as and when firm proposals are received for cost sharing proposals, joint field inspections are carried out by State Government and Railway Officials to determine the alignment location, etc.

(f) Work is in various stages of planning and progress at 28 locations where these have been sanctioned. In addition, there are 39 locations in Uttar Pradesh where NHAI is carrying out works as part of widening of ROBs, providing ROBs at new bye pass locations for National Highway.

Lease of iron ore mines

622. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the owner of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, has been applying for lease of iron ore mines for its captive use for several years;

(b) if so, the steps have been taken to ensure such a captive iron ore mining right to RINL; and

(c) whether his Ministry has recommended leasing of such mines to RINL to the Governments of different States where iron ore reserves are located, like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd., has applied for lease of iron ore mines in the States of Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. The applications made by RINL have been recommended by the Ministry of Steel to State Governments like Andhra Pradesh and to the Ministry of Mines.

Set up of three greenfield pellet plants

623. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's largest steel producer the Steel Authority of India Limited plans to set up three greenfield pellet plants with a total capacity of six million tonne and is likely to invest a sum of Rs. 1,000 crores for these projects;

(b) whether Government plans to review the progress of various steel projects and an inter-ministerial groups has set to review the progress of all major proposed plants;

(c) whether many of the proposed plants are not making any progress due to problems in land acquisitions and iron ore mines; and

(d) what concrete steps Government has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is planning to set up three new greenfield pellet plants. A plant of 0.9 Million tonnes per year capacity at Dalli mines in Chhattisgarh and a plant of around 1 Million tonnes per year capacity at Gua mines in Jharkhand are being planned. There will no investment by SAIL for setting up these two plants. SAIL will provide iron ore fines to the parties who will set up the pellet plants and the parties will supply pellets to SAIL on 'conversion cost' basis.

It has also been planned to set up another plant of 2 Million tonnes per year capacity at Taldih mines in Orissa for which the total investment will be made by SAIL. The process for engagement of consultant has been initiated. The cost of setting up the pellet plant would be known after finalization of the Detailed Project Report.

(b) Yes, Sir. An Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Steel) and comprising Secretaries of the concerned Ministries and the Chief Secretaries of the concerned State Governments has been set up to monitor and coordinate various issues concerning major steel investments in the country.

(c) and (d) Issues relating to land acquisition and iron ore linkages are key factors to be settled before various investment proposals of new steel projects progress. The Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) will also be addressing some of these key issues confronting fresh steel investment proposals. The Ministry co-ordinates and recommends. Land acquisition is done by the State Government. Government of India has also declared a new National Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy 2007, which is expected to ease problems relating to the acquisition of land for such plants.

12.00 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question Hour is over *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, I have a submission to make. *(Interruptions)*... Sir, we just heard the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. There is nothing wrong if you allow the Minister of Steel to answer without the Cabinet Minister. *(Interruptions)*... But the point is that there will be exception once or twice. If it is happening continuously, *(Interruptions)*... What is the rule? *(Interruptions)*... If he has any problem, make Mr. Velu the Cabinet Minister in place of Laluji, we have no objection *(Interruptions)*... They should make Mr. Velu a Cabinet Minister. *(Interruptions)*...